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The book is of interest chiefly for two reasons: First, it has the modern nature study idea in all its fullness. In the preface he states, "Were the youthful mind more generally directed to natural objects, and to the wonderful operations continually going on around us, and taught to seek entertainment and instruction in them, rather than in matters of a frivolous or vicious tendency, it is impossible to say to what extent this might be conducive to the future advancement and well being of human society." The chief unfavorable criticism seems to be that he preaches too directly as when he says in his introduction, "God made the little moss as well as the glowing flower and lofty tree, and has made nothing in vain." Although such sermons are frequent they are free from cant and do not seem as incongruous as they would in a modern book of nature study.

The second point of interest is that the book is illustrated with actual specimens instead of engravings, and these are inserted in an exquisite manner. One can still see the peristome with the naked eye on the capsule which is pasted in to illustrate the "peristome;" for the book has a short introductory lesson on structure illustrated with specimens. It is noticeable that instead of taking up twenty of the most common mosses and describing them he selects twenty illustrating pretty nearly all of the families of mosses as then recognized, and does not always take the most common or easily accessible, as when he uses *Polytrichum (Pogonatum) urnigerum* to illustrate the hair-caps, and *Weissia nigrita (Catoscopium nigratum)* to illustrate the Weissias.

When writing of mosses closely related to those illustrated he does not usually tell how to distinguish them, but merely mentions their occurrence and sometimes where he has collected them. This is not because of inability for he makes these distinctions in an admirable manner when writing of variety and species and illustrating these terms. The book (of about fifty pages 4x7 inches) was evidently well received for Mr. Sherwood's copy is of the third edition. This notice is written to call attention to one of the early attempts at nature study methods in the field of Bryology, which is well worth the consideration of any student of the development of educational ideas and ideals.

A NOTE.

Mr. J. F. Collins, of Brown University, calls my attention to a misstatement in my article on Vermont Mosses in the January BRYOLOGIST, where I state, page 7, that "*Heterocladium squarrosulum* has not before been reported from the eastern United States except Mt. Washington." It is reported from Massachusetts in Hitchcock's report of the Geology, Botany, etc., of Massachusetts (1833), page 640, and in Tuckerman & Frost's Amherst Catalogue (1875), and in Cobb's List of Plants near Amherst (1887). The last two are undoubtedly based on Frost's specimen collected in Brattleboro, Vt., in 1853, which specimen I have examined through the courtesy of Prof. L. R. Jones, of the University of Vermont. It is not *H. squarrosulum* at all but an entirely different moss, but on the margin is pencilled, "First collected in this country by me. C. C. F." The 1833 report still remains to be verified or disproved.

A. J. GROUT.